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June 14, 2001

Dear Acting Commissioner Schwetz:

I want irradiated foods to be clearly and conspicuously labeled. "Irradiation" is a commonly understood term that FDA should not discard for a deceptive substitute.

I'm not the only one who feels this way. An independent opinion pool in 1999 commissioned by the American Association of Retired Persons and the Center for Science in the Public Interest, showed overwhelming support for the term "Treated by Irradiation," instead of "Electronically Pasteurized" or "Cold Pasteurized." Just as consumers want label information about "dolphin-safe tuna" or "low fat" foods, they also want clear information on irradiated food.

Please don't change the current sensible label. Informed choice is part of a free market economy. Some shoppers want to buy irradiated foods because they believe these foods have lower pathogen risks. Other shoppers may avoid irradiated foods because of changes in taste, smell, texture, or nutritional value, or due to concerns about negative effects from radiation. The FDA should not stand in the way of consumers making those choices by putting confusing new labels on irradiated food.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

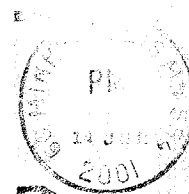
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